

Post doctoral position in tropical paleoecology / palynology

Applications are invited for a postdoctoral researcher at the Palaeoenvironment group of the Institute of Evolution Sciences (ISEM) at Montpellier University in France. The Palaeoenvironment group works on the interface of biology and geosciences and aims at the combination and integration of modern ecological concepts and proxy-derived information.

The focus areas of the Palaeoenvironment group are broadly centered on temperate and tropical diversity, fires (Boreal forests, tropical savannas), early agriculture and climate variability.

The Palaeoenvironment group offers excellent research facilities (microscopes, pollen library, laboratory facilities, fieldwork equipment, models access) and has a strong international scientific network.

Profile

The successful candidate will work with Dr Marie-Pierre Ledru on a new international project granted by BNP PARIBAS Foundation « Climate Initiative » and CNRS-INSU programs. The project intitled « Long-term climate cycles in the wet Tropics » aims to investigate the responses of the tropical rainforest to successive glacial/interglacial cycles and insolation cycles (see Ledru et al 2015 Scientific Drilling). Two cores of ~50m depth covering ~800,000 years of evolution were retrieved in August 2017 at Colônia São Paulo. The candidate will work on the pollen development of the project focusing on a targetted time period.

Active involvement in multidisciplinary groups is expected ; these might include paleomagnetism, geochemistry, biomarkers, charcoal studies, climate reconstruction. The candidate will also go along with a PhD on pollen analysis of the same site that started in 2017 at the University of Campinas in Brazil. The successful applicant will conduct original research, write manuscripts for publication, and assist with writing grant proposals.

The position is 2-years fixed term. The candidate is expected to have a strong and broad background in Quaternary tropical paleoecology and palynology. Experience in the brazilian atlantic forest pollen types, biostatistics and R programming is an advantage. Applicants should be able to independently establish the pollen research branch in close collaboration with the palynological and palaeobotanical expertise at the Geosciences Dpt of the University of Campinas in Brazil and the Department of Ecosystem & Landscape Dynamics of the University of Amsterdam in Holland. Starting date January 1, 2018, with the sampling party of the cores retrieved in August 2017 (@Colonia_Drill).

Employment conditions

Employment conditions are based on the Collective Labour Agreement of the French Universities. Based on the experience and qualifications of the candidate, the gross monthly salary is between € 2,150.- and € 2,500.- on a fulltime basis.

Please email a CV and a letter of interest, including contact telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for three references to marie-pierre.ledru@ird.fr by November 1st, 2017.